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WKZO Talking Points for Lori Moore Show

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• This is the first official day of classes, but we like to celebrate the start of the academic year, so you'll be hearing a lot from us this week.

• Somewhere around 25,000 students from all over the nation and more than 80 countries are here in Kalamazoo and at our regional sites, so we have a lot to celebrate.

• On Thursday, we'll have a formal Academic Convocation to get the year started right and to honor seven of our outstanding faculty and staff members (3:30 p.m. Dalton Center) I'll be making a few remarks about the "State of the University."

• On Friday, we'll be holding our 29th Bronco Bash from 3 to 8 p.m. on Fountain Plaza near Miller Auditorium. In past years, that event has drawn as many as 20,000 participants. It's the signature back-to-campus event now for two generations of Broncos. It's free and open to the community. It's a nice way to come out and feel the energy that comes with all those students and their back-to-school enthusiasm.

• Message to students--We are glad you're back. It was too quiet over the summer. The lines at the coffee shop were too short and I have missed having a chance to talk with students while we waited for that first cup of morning coffee. Get involved, have fun--but do so responsibly and in moderation. And most of all, study hard and get ready for whatever you plan to do next.
• Enrollment--it will be late next week before we have a final tally, but I can tell you from our Fall Welcome activities last week we have an outstanding group of new freshmen and transfer students.

• Football--highlights of Saturday's event. We're on the road for the first few weeks, but we're already looking forward to our home opener against Miami on Sept. 19. It's CommUniverCity night and that's one of our favorite times to showcase the Broncos for our home community.

Swine Flu
• We're fortunate that we've had a strong emergency planning group working on campus for nearly a decade. An offshoot of that group is our Pandemic Planning Committee that did a lot of the groundwork long before anyone heard of the H1N1 virus.

• We know from what's happening on other campuses that opened late last month, that it's likely well see some cases of the virus. We've been on a drive to keep our students and families and faculty and staff informed about the best preventive measures and what to do if they come down with flu symptoms.

• Our central messages come down to two critical things to remember. Practice good basic hygiene to avoid the flu, and self-isolate if you think you've been infected.
• Colleges are vulnerable because we have so many young people living and working in close proximity. But we have developed variety of tools and plans to help minimize any outbreak we experience.